

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Christopher D. Knight, et al.  
Serial No. 08/900,414  
Filed July 25, 1997  
For PROCESS FOR OPTIMIZING MILK PRODUCTION  
Allowed February 16, 1999  
Examiner N. Bhat  
Batch No. P14

Art Unit 1761

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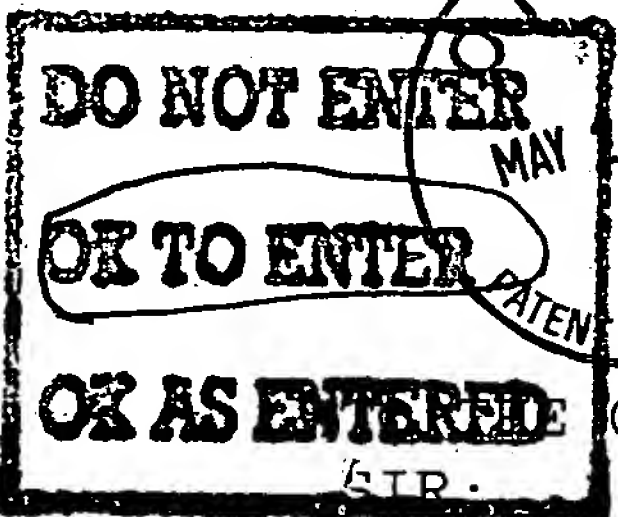
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May 17, 1999

AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 1.312

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS,



Please enter the following amendment into the record of  
this case under the provisions of Rule 1.312:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 6 to recite:

Claim 6 (once amended). A process for formulating a  
ruminant food ration, the process comprising:

determining the methionine needs of the ruminant,

identifying a plurality of natural or synthetic feed  
ingredients and the nutrient composition of each of said  
ingredients wherein one of said ingredients is a hydroxy analog  
of methionine selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxy-  
4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, [or a] salts, amides [or] and  
esters thereof, and

formulating a ration from the identified feed ingredients  
to meet the determined methionine needs of the ruminant which  
comprises mixing one or more grains with a liquid comprising  
[2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid] the hydroxy analog of  
methionine wherein the ration is formulated on the basis that